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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/588,802	08/09/2006	Hironobu Teraoka	5173-0103PUS1	9726

2292 7590 12/29/2008  
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH  
PO BOX 747  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER
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WHITE, DWAYNE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3745

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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12/29/2008

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/588,802	<b>Applicant(s)</b> TERAOKA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> DWAYNE J. WHITE	<b>Art Unit</b> 3745	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/09/06</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 1, lines 30 and 33, "patent document 1" should be changed to --Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-141494--.

On page 2, lines 11-12, "[patent document 1] Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-141494" should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 9-20 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from a multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 9-20 have not been further treated on the merits.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. (JP 141494 A) in view of Shibata et al. (US 2003/0175121 A1). Sato et al. discloses an impeller for blower comprising: a circular support plate 16 having a rotational axis; and a plurality of blades

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19 provided on a peripheral edge portion of the support plate, extending in parallel to the rotational axis and having a predetermined blade angle, the impeller being characterized by: a plurality of notches 20 provided on an outer and inner edge of a pair of side edges of each of the blades (See Figure 10), and arranged at predetermined intervals along a longitudinal direction of the respective blades. The Examiner notes that figures 5, 7 and 10 shows that the notches can also be places on either the outer or inner side edges. Sato et al. does not disclose a plurality of smooth portions between a pair of notches, or that the notches are only provided on some of the plurality of blades.

Shibata et al. teaches the use of notches on the edges of blades to reduce noise generation. The notches of Shibata et al. have smooth portions 13a between each notch. Since both Sato et al. and Shibata et al. disclose the use of notches on blade edges to reduce noise generation, and it is clear that the notches of Shibata et al. function is the same way as the notches of Sato et al., it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the notches of Sato et al., with the teaches of Shibata et al., by providing smooth portions between each of the notches for the purpose of reducing noise generated by the blades.

Further, Since applicant has not disclosed that having the notches on select blades solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose above the fact that the notches reduce noise and it appears that the notches of Sato et al. as modified would perform equally well with having notches on select blades as claimed by applicant, it would have been an obvious matter of engineering expedience to apply notches to on select blades for the purpose of reducing noise.

## CONCLUSION

***Prior Art***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Takada et al. (JP 40116749 A) discloses a cross flow fan having a vane projecting 6 towards the bottom end of the fan body 3 on the nose part 5.

***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DWAYNE J. WHITE whose telephone number is (571)272-4825. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am to 3:30 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Look can be reached on (571) 272-4820. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dwayne J White/

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DJW